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FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY

BOROUGH OF LEWISBERRY, PENNSYLVANIA
YORK COUNTY

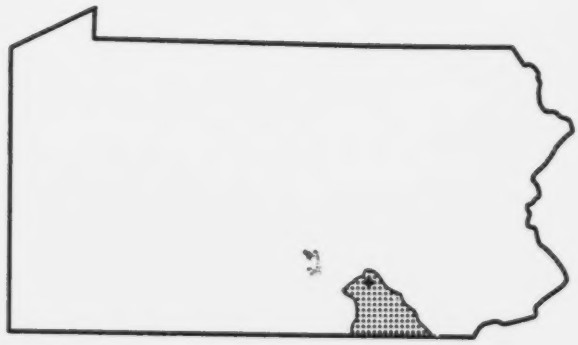

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
1.0	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1 Purpose of Study	1
	1.2 Authority and Acknowledgements	1
	1.3 Coordination	1
2.0	AREA STUDIED	2
	2.1 Scope of Study	2
	2.2 Community Description	2
	2.3 Principal Flood Problems	4
	2.4 Flood Protection Measures	4
3.0	ENGINEERING METHODS	5
	3.1 Hydrologic Analyses	5
	3.2 Hydraulic Analyses	6
4.0	FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT APPLICATIONS	7
	4.1 Flood Boundaries	7
	4.2 Floodways	7
5.0	INSURANCE APPLICATION	10
	5.1 Reach Determinations	10
	5.2 Flood Hazard Factors	10
	5.3 Flood Insurance Zones	10
	5.4 Flood Insurance Rate Map Description	12

TABLE OF CONTENTS - continued

Page

6.0 OTHER STUDIES..... 12

7.0 LOCATION OF DATA..... 12

8.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES..... 13

FIGURES

Figure 1 - Vicinity Map..... 3

Figure 2 - Potential 100- and 500-year flood elevations at Front Street bridge over Bennett Run..... 4

Figure 3 - Floodway Schematic..... 8

TABLES

Table 1 - Summary of Discharges..... 6

Table 2 - Floodway Data..... 9

Table 3 - Flood Insurance Zone Data..... 11

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 - Flood Profiles

Bennett Run.....Panel 01P

Exhibit 2 - Flood Boundary and Floodway Map

PUBLISHED SEPARATELY:

Flood Insurance Rate Map

FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY

BOROUGH OF LEWISBERRY, PENNSYLVANIA

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of Study

This Flood Insurance Study investigates the existence and severity of flood hazards in the Borough of Lewisberry, York County, Pennsylvania, and aids in the administration of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973. This study will be used to convert Lewisberry to the regular program of flood insurance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Local and regional planners will use this study in their efforts to promote sound flood plain management.

In some states or communities, flood plain management criteria or regulations may exist that are more restrictive or comprehensive than those on which these federally-supported studies are based. These criteria take precedence over the minimum federal criteria for purposes of regulating development in the flood plain, as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations at 44 CFR, 60.3. In such cases, however, it shall be understood that the state (or other jurisdictional agency) shall be able to explain these requirements and criteria.

1.2 Authority and Acknowledgements

The source of authority for this Flood Insurance Study is the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973.

The hydrologic and hydraulic analyses for this study were performed by Gannett, Fleming, Corddry, and Carpenter, Inc., for the FEMA, under Contract No. H-4820. This study was completed in January 1981.

1.3 Coordination

Streams requiring detailed study were identified at a meeting attended by representatives of Gannett Fleming Corddry and Carpenter, Inc. (the study contractor), the FEMA and representatives of the Borough of Lewisberry in June 1978. Results of the hydrologic analyses were coordinated with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and the FEMA.

On August 14, 1981, the results of the study were reviewed at the final meeting attended by representatives of the study contractor, the FEMA, and community officials. The study was acceptable to the community.

2.0 AREA STUDIED

2.1 Scope of Study

This Flood Insurance Study covers the incorporated area of the Borough of Lewisberry, York County, Pennsylvania. The area of study is shown on the Vicinity Map (Figure 1).

The limits of detailed study in the Borough of Lewisberry were determined by the FEMA, the community, and the study contractor at the consultation and coordination meeting in June 1978.

Bennett Run, from the downstream corporate limits to the upstream corporate limits of Lewisberry, was studied in detail.

The area studied by detailed methods was selected with priority given to all known flood hazard areas, and areas of projected development or proposed construction for the next five years, through January 1986.

2.2 Community Description

The Borough of Lewisberry is located in northwestern York County in the south central portion of Pennsylvania. It is completely surrounded by the Township of Newberry. The total land area contained within the borough limits is 0.15 square mile. It is situated approximately 14 miles northwest of York, Pennsylvania, and 9 miles south of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. According to U. S. Census Bureau figures, the population has increased from 314 in 1960 to 490 in 1970 (Reference 1). The borough was founded in 1734.

Bennett Run flows southeast through the borough and is a tributary to Conewago Creek. It has a length of 8.8 miles extending from the headwaters to its confluence with Conewago Creek. Its drainage area encompasses 14.3 square miles.

Approximately eighty-five percent of the borough has been developed, with the remainder of land being vacant or wooded. Within the flood plains studied, development is limited; it consists primarily of single family residences and a few private businesses. State Routes 382 and 177 serve the residents of Lewisberry.

The climate in south central Pennsylvania is characteristically humid continental. Average summer and winter temperatures range from 66.9 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) to 38.7°F, respectively (Reference 2). Average annual precipitation in the region is 40.4 inches, with an average recorded snowfall of 31.8 inches. The precipitation is fairly uniformly distributed throughout the year, with the wettest months being July and August (Reference 3).

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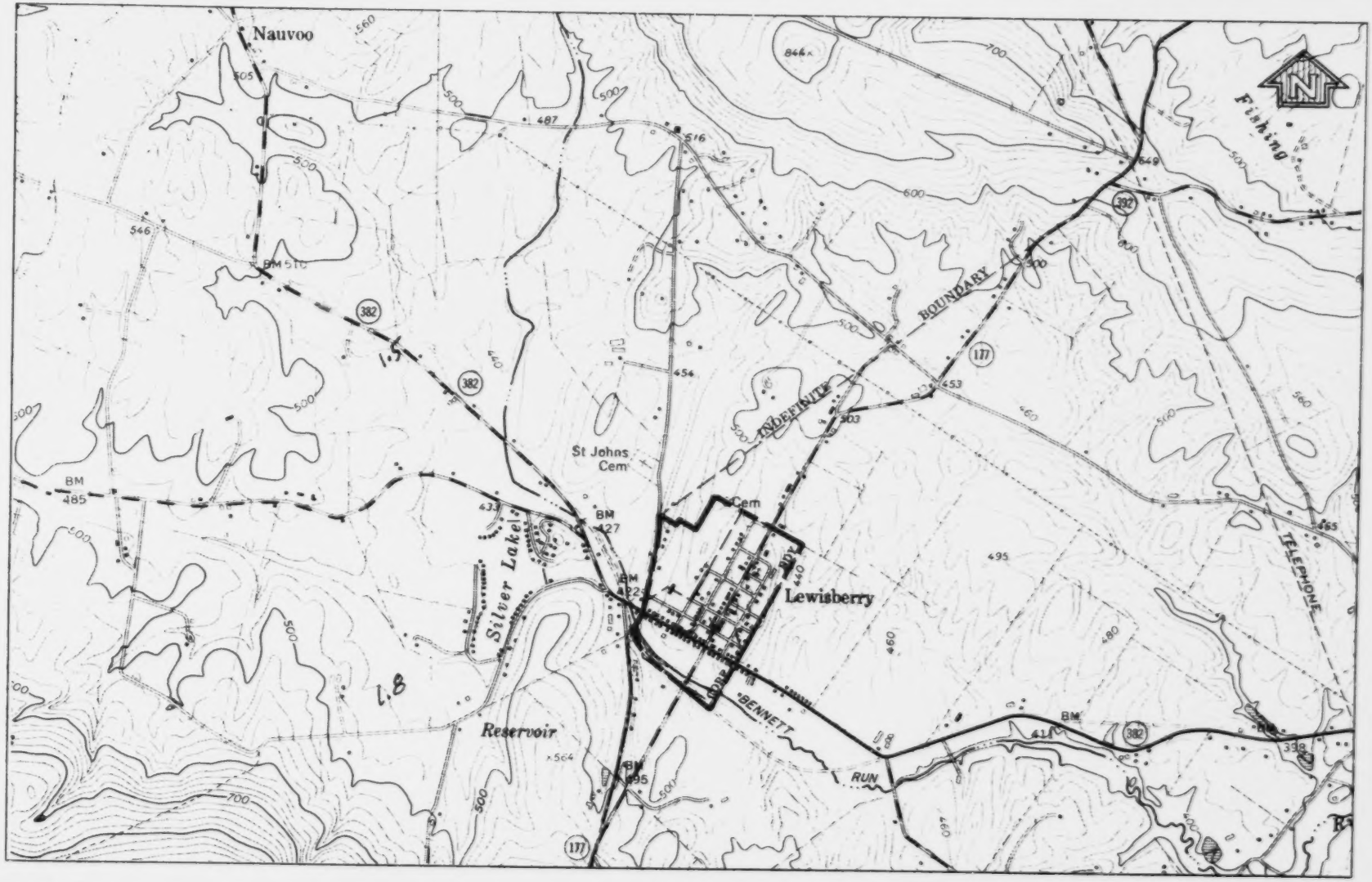

FIGURE 1

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

BOROUGH OF LEWISBERRY, PA
(YORK CO.)

APPROXIMATE SCALE

2,000' 0 2,000' 4,000' 6,000'

VICINITY MAP

2.3 Principal Flood Problems

The past history of flooding on Bennett Run, within the Borough of Lewisberry, indicates that flooding may occur during any season of the year. The majority of major floods have occurred during late spring and early fall and were usually the result of storms associated with tropical storms moving up the Atlantic coastline. Although no actual high water marks or flood damage estimates were available from the borough officials, local residents interviewed during the course of this study reported that out of bank flow along Bennett Run did occur in June 1972 and again in September 1975. The flood of June 1972 was a result of heavy rains associated with the passage of Tropical Storm Agnes. This storm produced the flood of record at many locations and devastated flood plains of the Susquehanna River Basin. The flooding experienced in September 1975 was associated with Tropical Storm Eloise, which also produced widespread flooding throughout the Susquehanna River Basin. The estimated 100-and 500-year flood elevations at the Front Street bridge over Bennett Run are presented in Figure 2.

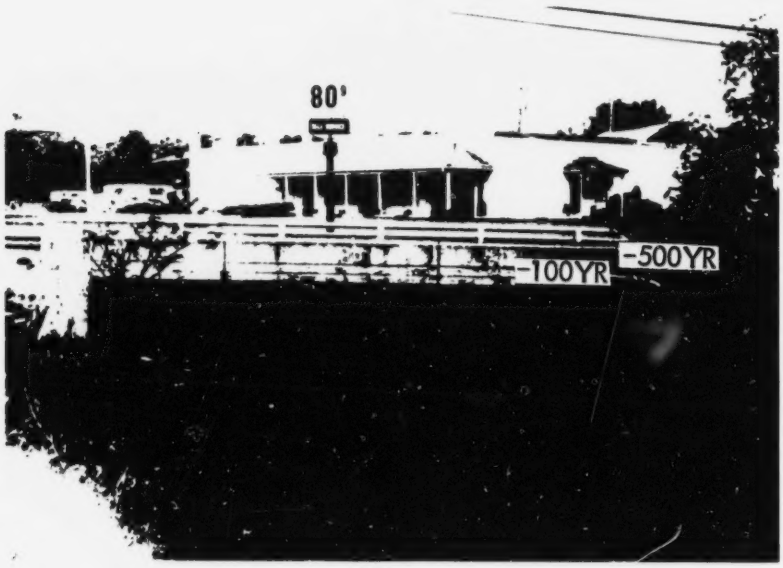

Figure 2. Potential 100- and 500-year flood elevations at downstream face of Front Street bridge over Bennett Run (Photo date, July 1979)

2.4 Flood Protection Measures

Currently there are no flood protection devices within the corporate limits of Lewisberry. However, the channel improvements to Bennett Run, completed in conjunction with the relocation of State Route 382, will tend to increase the flow capacity of Bennett Run through

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Lewisberry and thereby reduce flood elevations. This increased conveyance was included in the hydraulic analysis. The Silver Lake Reservoir, located upstream of Lewisberry, was not designed as a flood control structure and, for the purposes of this study, no flood flow reduction due to the lake was considered.

Non-structural measures of flood protection are being utilized to aid in the prevention of future flood damage. These are in the form of land use regulations adopted from the Code of Federal Regulations which control building within areas that have a high risk of flooding (Reference 4).

3.0 ENGINEERING METHODS

For the flooding source studied in detail in the community, standard hydrologic and hydraulic study methods were used to determine the flood hazard data required for this study. Flood events of a magnitude which are expected to be equalled or exceeded once on the average during any 10-, 50-, 100-, or 500-year period (recurrence intervals), have been selected as having special significance for flood plain management and for flood insurance premium rates. These events, commonly termed the 10-, 50-, 100-, and 500-year floods, have a 10-, 2-, 1-, and 0.2-percent chance, respectively, of being equalled or exceeded during any year. Although the recurrence interval represents the long term, average period between floods of a specific magnitude, rare floods could occur at short intervals or even within the same year. The risk of experiencing a rare flood increases when periods greater than one year are considered. For example, the risk of having a flood which equals or exceeds the 100-year flood (one percent chance of annual occurrence) in any 50 year period is about 40 percent (four in 10), and for any 90 year period, the risk increases to about 60 percent (six in ten). The analyses reported here reflect flooding potentials based on conditions existing in the community at the time of completion of this study. Maps and flood elevations will be amended periodically to reflect future changes.

3.1 Hydrologic Analyses

Hydrologic analyses were carried out to establish peak discharge-frequency relationships for floods of the selected recurrence intervals for the flooding source studied in detail in the community.

For the detailed study of Bennett Run the hydrologic analysis consisted of the application of the hydrologic models presented in the U.S. Geological Survey Open File Report 76-391, Floods in Pennsylvania: A Manual for Estimation of Their Magnitude and Frequency (Reference 5). The empirical equations contained in the manual were developed through a regression analysis of frequency curves developed from gage data (Reference 6). These equations relate flood flow frequency to drainage area, channel slope, percent area of storage and an index of average annual precipitation-evapotranspiration as the primary parameters for computing the peak flood discharges.

A summary of the drainage area-peak discharge relationships for Bennett Run is presented in Table 1, "Summary of Discharges."

TABLE 1 - SUMMARY OF DISCHARGES

FLOODING SOURCE AND LOCATION	DRAINAGE AREA (sq. miles)	PEAK DISCHARGES (cfs) 10-YEAR	50-YEAR	100-YEAR	500-YEAR
BENNETT RUN					
Near Market Street bridge	5.5	696	1,250	1,555	2,550
Near Front Street bridge	5.3	669	1,201	1,492	2,400

3.2 Hydraulic Analyses

Analyses of the hydraulic characteristics of the flooding source studied in detail were carried out to provide estimates of the elevations of floods of the selected recurrence intervals along the flooding source.
Cross sections for the backwater analyses of Bennett Run were obtained from field surveys conducted in October 1979. All bridges were field measured to obtain elevation data and structural geometry.

Locations of selected cross sections used in the hydraulic analyses are shown on the Flood Profiles. For stream segments for which a floodway was computed (Section 4.2), selected cross section locations are also shown on the Flood Boundary and Floodway Map.

Channel roughness factors (Manning's "n") used in the hydraulic computations, were based on field observations of the streams and flood plain areas using the procedures outlined in a publication by the Soil Conservation Service, National Engineering Handbook (Reference 7).

Roughness values for the main channel of Bennett Run range from 0.035 to 0.045 with flood plain roughness values ranging from 0.050 to 0.082 for all floods.

Water-surface elevations of floods of the selected recurrence intervals were computed through use of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) HEC-2 step-backwater computer program (Reference 8). Flood profiles were drawn showing computed water surface elevations for floods of the selected recurrence intervals. Starting water surface elevations for Bennett Run were calculated using the slope-area method. Flood profiles were drawn showing computed water surface elevations to an accuracy of 0.5 foot for floods of the selected recurrence intervals. All elevations are referenced from the National Geodetic Vertical Datum

of 1929, (NGVD) formerly referred to as Sea Level Datum of 1929; elevation reference marks used in this study are shown on the maps.

The hydraulic analyses for this study were based on unobstructed flow. The flood elevations shown on the profiles are thus considered valid only if hydraulic structures remain unobstructed, operate properly, and do not fail.

4.0 FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT APPLICATIONS

The National Flood Insurance Program encourages state and local governments to adopt sound flood plain management programs. Therefore, each Flood Insurance Study includes a flood boundary map designed to assist communities in developing sound flood plain management measures.

4.1 Flood Boundaries

In order to provide a national standard without regional discrimination, the 100-year flood has been adopted by the FEMA as the base flood for purposes of flood plain management measures. The 500-year flood is employed to indicate additional areas of flood risk in the community. For the stream studied in detail, the boundaries of the 100- and the 500-year floods have been delineated using the flood elevations determined at each cross section; between cross sections, the boundaries were interpolated using topographic maps at a scale of 1:24,000 with a contour interval of 20 feet (Reference 9). In cases where the 100- and the 500-year flood boundaries are close together, only the 100-year boundary has been shown.

The boundaries of the 100- and 500-year floods are shown on the Flood Boundary and Floodway Map. Small areas within the flood boundaries may lie above the flood elevations, and therefore, may not be subject to flooding. Owing to limitations of the map scale and/or lack of detailed topographic data, such areas are not shown.

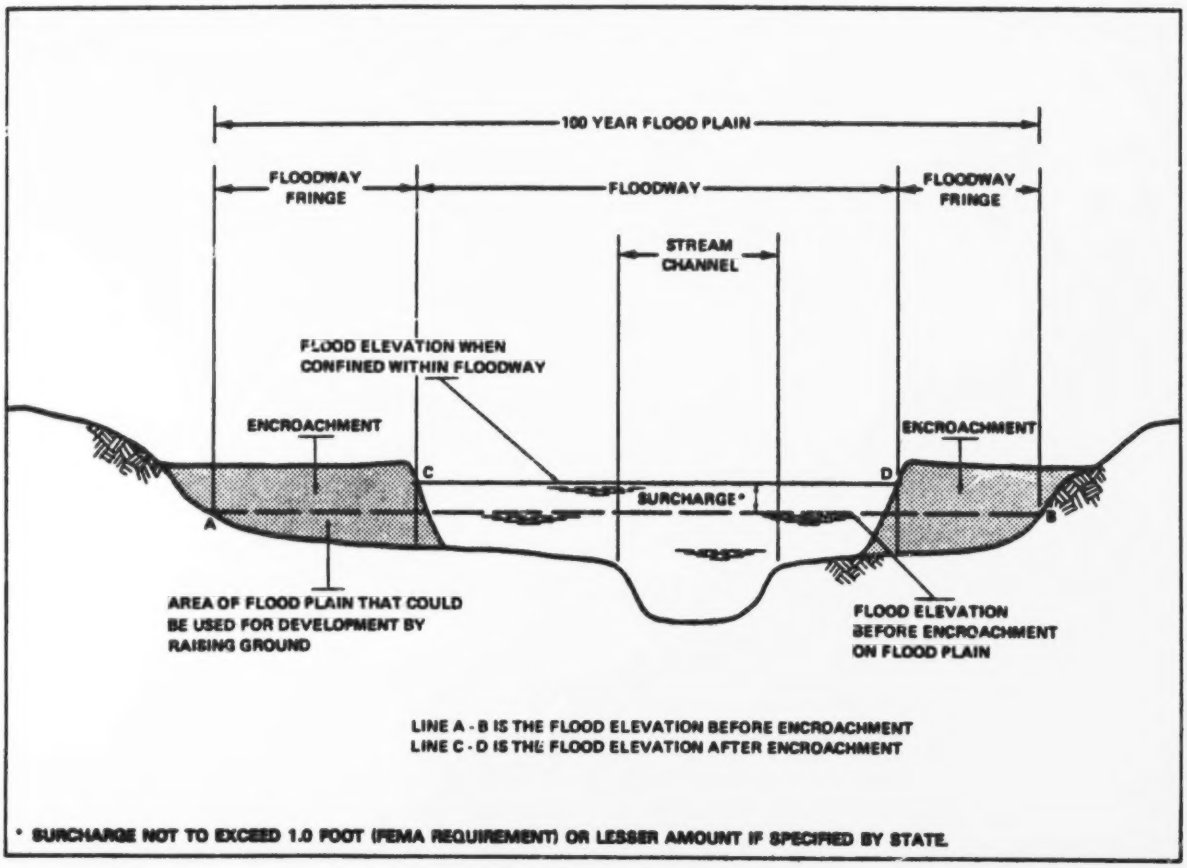
4.2 Floodways

Encroachment on flood plains, such as artificial fill, reduces the flood-carrying capacity, increases the flood heights of streams, and increases flood hazards in areas beyond the encroachment itself. One aspect of flood plain management involves balancing the economic gain from flood plain development against the resulting increase in flood hazard. For purposes of the Flood Insurance Program, the concept of a floodway is used as a tool to assist local communities in this aspect of flood plain management. Under this concept, the area of the 100-year flood is divided into a floodway and a floodway fringe. The floodway is the channel of a stream plus any adjacent flood plain areas that must be kept free of encroachment in order that the 100-year flood may be carried without substantial increases in flood heights. Minimum standards of the FEMA limit such increases in flood heights to 1.0 foot, provided that hazardous velocities are not produced. The floodway in this report is presented to local agencies as minimum standards that can be adopted or that can be used as a basis for additional studies.

The floodway presented in this study was computed on the basis of equal conveyance reduction from each side of the flood plain. The results of these computations were tabulated at selected cross sections for each stream segment for which a floodway was computed (Table 2).

As shown on the Flood Boundary and Floodway Map (Exhibit 2), the floodway widths were determined at cross sections; between cross sections, the boundaries were interpolated. In cases where the boundaries of the floodway and the 100-year flood are either close together or collinear, only the floodway boundary has been shown.

The area between the floodway and the boundary of the 100-year flood is termed the floodway fringe. The floodway fringe thus encompasses the portion of the flood plain that could be completely obstructed without increasing the water surface elevation of the 100-year flood more than 1.0 foot at any point. Typical relationships between the floodway and the floodway fringe and their significance to flood plain development are shown in Figure 3.


100 YEAR FLOOD PLAIN
FLOODWAY FRINGE
FLOODWAY
FLOODWAY FRINGE
STREAM CHANNEL
FLOOD ELEVATION WHEN CONFINED WITHIN FLOODWAY
ENCROACHMENT
ENCROACHMENT
C
D
SURCHARGE*
A
B
AREA OF FLOOD PLAIN THAT COULD BE USED FOR DEVELOPMENT BY RAISING GROUND
FLOOD ELEVATION BEFORE ENCROACHMENT ON FLOOD PLAIN
LINE A - B IS THE FLOOD ELEVATION BEFORE ENCROACHMENT
LINE C - D IS THE FLOOD ELEVATION AFTER ENCROACHMENT
* SURCHARGE NOT TO EXCEED 1.0 FOOT (FEMA REQUIREMENT) OR LESSER AMOUNT IF SPECIFIED BY STATE.

FLOODWAY SCHEMATIC Figure 3

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FLOODING SOURCE		FLOODWAY			BASE FLOOD WATER SURFACE ELEVATION			
CROSS SECTION	DISTANCE[1]	WIDTH (FEET)	SECTION AREA (SQ. FT.)	MEAN VELOCITY (FEET/SEC.)	REGULATORY (NGVD)	WITHOUT FLOODWAY (NGVD)	WITH FLOODWAY (NGVD)	INCREASE (FEET)
Bennett Run								
A	285	55	235	6.6	420.2	420.2	420.8	0.6
B	600	110	700	2.2	422.8	422.8	423.0	0.2
C	740	98	514	3.0	422.8	422.8	423.0	0.2
D	1330	120	640	2.4	423.2	423.2	423.4	0.2

[1] Feet above corporate limits.

TABLE 2

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

BOROUGH OF LEWISBERRY, PA
(YORK CO.)

FLOODWAY DATA

BENNETT RUN

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5.0 INSURANCE APPLICATION

In order to establish actuarial insurance rates, the FEMA has developed a process to transform the data from the engineering study into flood insurance criteria. This process includes the determination of reaches, Flood Hazard Factors (FHFs), and flood insurance zone designations for the flooding source affecting the Borough of Lewisberry.

5.1 Reach Determinations

Reaches are defined as lengths of watercourses having relatively the same flood hazard, based on the average weighted difference in water-surface elevations between the 10- and 100-year floods. This difference does not have a variation greater than that indicated in the following table for than 20 percent of the reach.

Average Difference Between 10- and 100-Year Floods	Variation
Less than 2 feet	0.5 foot
2 to 7 feet	1.0 foot

The locations of the reaches determined for the flooding source of the Borough of Lewisberry are shown on the Flood Profiles (Exhibit 1) and are summarized in the Flood Insurance Zone Data Table (Table 3).

5.2 Flood Hazard Factors (FHFs)

The FHF is the FEMA device used to correlate flood information with insurance rate tables. Correlations between property damages from floods and their assigned FHFs are used to set actuarial insurance premium rate tables based on FHFs from 005 to 200.

The FHF for a reach is the average weighted difference between the 10- and 100-year flood water surface-elevations expressed to the nearest on-half foot, and shown as a three-digit code. For example, if the difference between the water surface elevations of the 10- and 100-year floods is 0.7 foot, the FHF is 005; if the difference is 1.4 feet, the FHF is 015; if the difference is 5.0 feet, the FHF is 050. When the difference between the 10- and 100-year flood water surface elevations is greater than 10.0 feet, the accuracy for the FHF is to the nearest foot.

5.3 Flood Insurance Zones

After the determination of reaches and their respective FHFs, the entire incorporated area of the Borough of Lewisberry was divided into zones, each having a specific flood potential or hazard. Each zone was assigned one of the following flood insurance zone designations:

FLOODING SOURCE	PANEL[1]	ELEVATION DIFFERENCE[2] BETWEEN 1.0% (100-YEAR) FLOOD AND			FHF	ZONE	BASE FLOOD ELEVATION[3]
		10% (10 YR.)	2% (50 YR.)	0.2% (500 YR.)			
Bennett Run							
Reach 1	01	-2.3	-0.7	+1.8	025	A5	Varies

[1] Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel.
[2] Weighted Average.
[3] Rounded to nearest foot - See map for elevations.

TABLE 3

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

BOROUGH OF LEWISBERRY, PA
(YORK CO.)

FLOOD INSURANCE ZONE DATA

BENNETT RUN

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Zone A5:	Special Flood Hazard Areas inundated by the 100-year flood, determined by detailed methods; base flood elevations shown, and zones assigned according to FHFs.
Zone B:	Areas between the Special Flood Hazard Areas and the limits of the 500-year flood, including areas of the 500-year flood plain that are protected from the 100-year flood by dike, levee, or other water control structure; areas subject to certain types of 100-year shallow flooding where depths are less than 1.0 foot; or, areas subject to 100-year flooding from sources with drainage areas of less than one square mile. Zone B is not subdivided.
Zone C:	Areas of minimal flooding.

Table 3, "Flood Insurance Zone Data," summarizes the flood elevation differences, FHFs, flood insurance zones, and base flood elevations for the flooding source studied in detail in the Borough of Lewisberry.

5.4 Flood Insurance Rate Map Description

The Flood Insruance Rate Map for the Borough of Lewisberry is, for insurance purposes, the principal result of the Flood Insurance Study. This map (published separately) contains the official delineation of flood insurance zones and base flood elevation lines. Base flood elevation lines show the locations of the expected whole-foot water surface-elevations of the base (100-year) flood. This map is developed in accordance with the latest flood insurance map preparation guidelines published by the FEMA.

6.0 OTHER STUDIES

A Flood Insurance Study was conducted by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission for the Township of Newberry, which surrounds the Borough of Lewisberry. The results of this study have been coordinated with the Flood Insurance Study for the Township of Newberry (Reference 10) and found to agree. No other studies were found to exist at the time of this report.

7.0 LOCATION OF DATA

Information concerning the pertinent data used in preparation of this study can be obtained by contacting the Natural and Technological Hazards Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Regional Director, Region III, Curtis Building, Room 700, Sixth and Walnut Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106.

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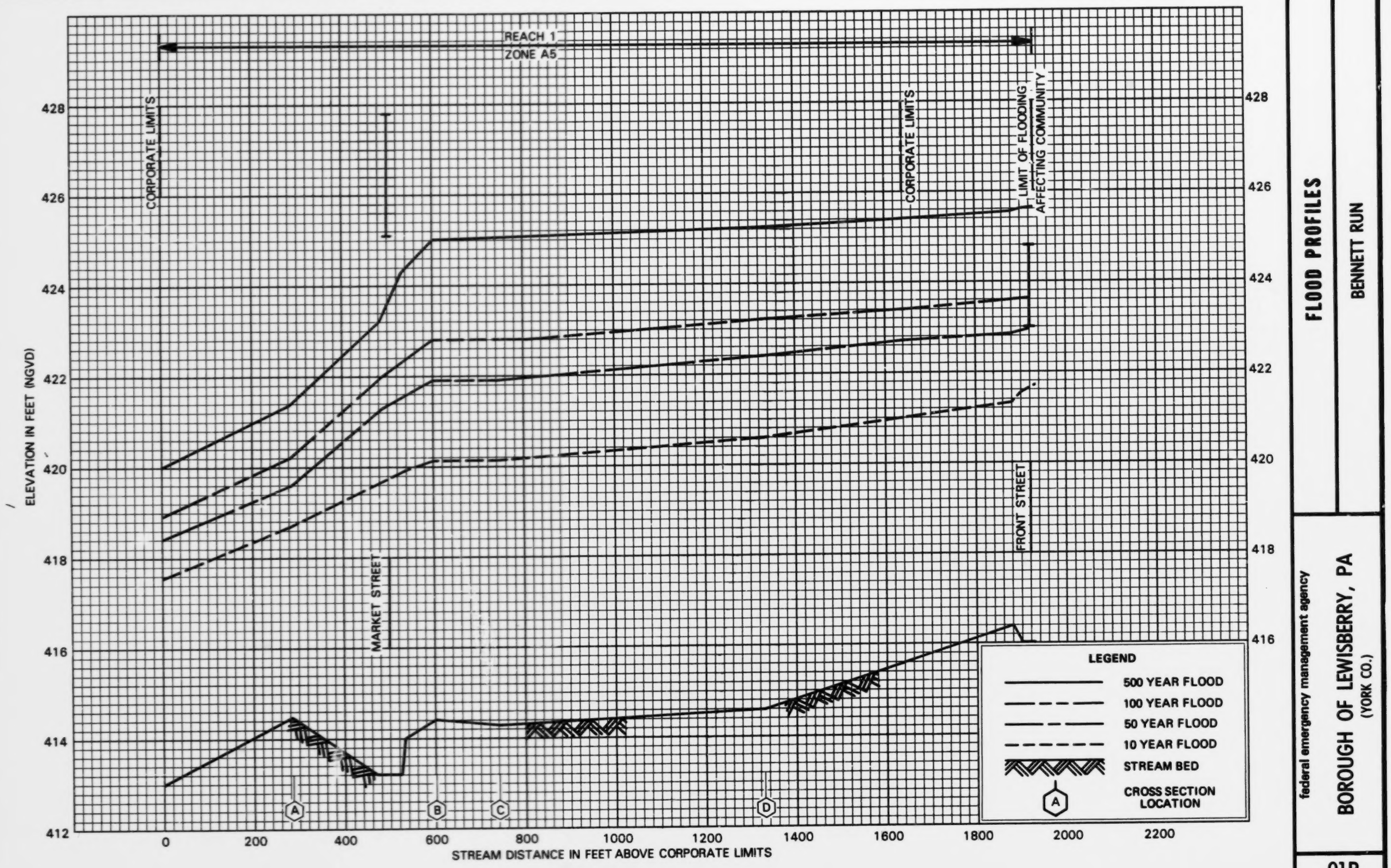

FLOOD PROFILES

BENNETT RUN

federal emergency management agency

BOROUGH OF LEWISBERRY, PA
(YORK CO.)

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